

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 270626
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:LPFEIFLE:CFC

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

ARA:TATODMAN

ARA:SASHELTON

ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS

ARA/MEX:DSIMCOX

S/S-O:SRPVALERGA

-----082791 112008Z /42

O P 111935Z NOV 77 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 270626

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PBOR, GH, UK, GT

SUBJECT: BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS

1. WE UNDERSTAND THE BRITISH AND GUATEMALANS MAY BE
NEAR AN AGREEMENT ON BELIZE WHICH WOULD INVOLVE A
MINOR CESSION OF TERRITORY. THE MEXICAN CLAIM TO
BELIZE IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO BELIZEAN PREMIER PRICE
WHO TOLD THE BRITISH THAT TORRIJOS OF PANAMA INFORMED
HIM THAT IF BELIZE CEDED TERRITORY TO GUATEMALA IN
THE SOUTH, MEXICO WOULD DEMAND LAND IN THE NORTH.

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IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IN THE ATTEMPT TO GET PRICE
TO ACQUIESCE IN A SETTLEMENT IF THE MEXICANS WOULD
CONVEY TO HIM THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF A NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT, MEXICO WOULD NOT PURSUE ITS CLAIMS TO
BELIZE, EVEN THOUGH A VERY SMALL CESSION OF TERRITORY
WERE MADE TO GUATEMALA.

2. ON NOVEMBER 3 ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN TOLD ROEL HE HOPED MEXICO WOULD NOT PRESS ITS CLAIMS TO BELIZE IF THERE WERE A SETTLEMENT INVOLVING CESSION OF A SMALL AMOUNT OF TERRITORY. ROEL REPLIED THAT IF THE CESSION WERE ACCEPTABLE TO THE BELIZEAN PEOPLE, HE WOULD RECOMMEND HIS GOVERNMENT GO ALONG. THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED THIS WITH ROEL ON PHONE ON NOVEMBER 10.

3. WE BELIEVE THERE IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY NOW TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE. GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD IS A MODERATE, AND COMMITTED TO SETTLING THE BELIZE DISPUTE BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE JULY 1. IN OJR OPINION NONE OF THE THREE CANDIDATES TO SUCCEED HIM WOULD BE WILLING OR ABLE TO AGREE TO A SETTLEMENT MORE FAVORABLE TO BELIZE THAN LAUGERUD. IT WOULD ALSO BE VERY USEFUL IF THE MEXICANS COULD CONVEY TO PRICE THAT HE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY NOW TO OBTAIN INDEPENDENCE ON TERMS MORE FAVORABLE THAN POSSIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

4. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WILL BE SOUNDING OUT ROEL AS TO THE MEXICAN VIEWS ON A BELIZE SETTLEMENT INVOLVING A MINOR CESSION OF TERRITORY.

5. PLEASE SEE ROEL AT HIS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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-- WE UNDERSTAND THE BRITISH AND GUATEMALANS MAY BE NEAR A SETTLEMENT ON BELIZE INVOLVING A MINOR CESSION OF TERRITORY TO GUATEMALA.

-- WE HOPE THAT MEXICO, IN THE INTEREST OF ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, WOULD BE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THE SETTLEMENT AND NOT PURSUE ITS CLAIMS TO BELIZE.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHANCES OF ARRIVING AT A SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD GIVE BELIZE SELF-DETERMINATION ARE GREATER NOW THAN THEY WILL BE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD HAS ADOPTED A MODERATE POSITION AND IS COMMITTED TO RESOLVING THE ISSUE BEFORE HE LEAVES OFFICE JULY 1. NONE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WOULD BE WILLING OR ABLE TO AGREE TO A SETTLEMENT AS FAVORABLE TO BELIZE AS LAUGERUD. TWO, PERALTA AZURDIA AND LUCAS, ARE HARD-LINERS. IN THE CASE OF THE THIRD, THE MILITARY DOES NOT TRUST PERALTA MENDEZ ENOUGH TO ALLOW HIM TO NEGOTIATE WHAT THEY SEE AS A LESS-THAN-DESIRABLE SETTLEMENT.

-- WE HOPE ROEL WOULD USE HIS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE
TO HELP BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO
ALL PARTIES.

-- IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IF HE WOULD CONVEY
TO PRICE THAT A SETTLEMENT NOW, INVOLVING MINOR
TERRITORIAL CESSION, IS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY LIKELY
FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS FOR BELIZE TO ACHIEVE SELF-
DETERMINATION, AND THAT MEXICO WILL NOT PURSUE
ITS CLAIMS TO TERRITORY IN THE NORTH OF BELIZE.

-- WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF ROEL WOULD KEEP THIS
CONVERSATION IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. VANCE
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DRAFTED BY: S/S:SESTEINER

APPROVED BY: S/S:SESTEINER

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O 120205Z NOV 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 270626

NODIS

FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 270626 SENT ACTION MEXICO INFO LONDON,
BELIZE, GUATEMALA 11 NOV 77

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 270626

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM HABIB

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-- WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF ROEL WOULD KEEP THIS SECRET

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CONVERSATION IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: X1
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 618683
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PBOR, GH, UK, GT, MX
To: MEXICO LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52f4111c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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